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Catching up with the business Down Under

Working day:

Paul Arthur

PAUL ARTHUR is director of one of the country's leading migration consultancy's, the Chester-based Emigration Group.

Paul is an expert on migration to Australia and New Zealand. His company offers advice to clients on every aspect of the process, from managing the Visa applications, to finding a new job, a new home or even a new business Down Under. This is an account of his day.

5am I like to make an early start in the morning. I take a quick shower, have breakfast say goodbye to my wife Sarah, then it's a short drive to work in the car. I like to listen to Five Live on the way in to catch up on the latest news and sport.

6am: Arrive at the office in Chester. The Emigration Group has offices in London, New

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Zealand and Australia, so our business is working 24 hours a day. This means there are always lots of emails waiting for me each morning.

7am: Having checked my e-mails I dial in to my first conference call of the day with Geoff Taylor. Geoff is the founder of The Emigration Group and my business partner. Geoff lives in New Zealand and we speak every day at 7am my time – currently 6pm Geoff's time. Geoff advises that Australia has announced a massive increase in the number of visas available to new migrants for 2008/2009. In addition they have added a further 12 new occupations to their "most wanted list". Over the last few years skilled workers, trades people, IT and other professionals have been in high demand Down Under. We end the call and I have a coffee – knowing that Geoff is probably sitting down on his veranda enjoying a beer.

10am: I meet with our Chester-based consultants. They work directly with our clients and we run through individual cases to ensure all are progressing



Paul Arthur, director of The Emigration Group

smoothly. I update them on the news we receive from Australia and we discuss the seminar schedule for the rest of the year.

12noon: Meet with a new client who is selling his business in the UK and wants to emigrate to Australia. He is in his 50s, which means he won't qualify for the Skilled Visa. I suggest he has two possible alternatives, he should consider applying for the Business Owner Visa, which will allow him to buy into or start up a new business in Australia, or, provided he has sufficient capital he could apply for the Business Investor Visa which would allow him to live and work Down Under, without having to start a new business.

1pm: I check my emails. The Emigration Group has a specialist

Resettlement Service in Australia and New Zealand. The team are available to provide a full support service to our clients, which includes finding suitable temporary accommodation, meeting families from the airport, and helping find new homes and schools.

2pm: A quick lunch and a call to my wife Sarah to discuss plans for the weekend. We're thinking of heading up to Llandegla Forest in Wales to do some mountain biking.

2.30pm: I call Jamie in Melbourne Australia, who provides the onshore business advisory service for our company which includes the preparation and management of business plans essential for a successful application.

3.30pm: I review our current new client list to see which candidates have requested the services of our job search company who help them find employment Down Under. I check their details have been forwarded to our offices in Australia and New Zealand, who then work with our clients to look for suitable employment opportunities.

5pm: I leave for the day and spend an hour with my family. We eat together before I begin my final call. Colin Mitten is the director of The Emigration Group Australasia and we run through both new and existing cases.

8.30pm: A bedtime story for my son Daniel and then I sit down – a beer in my hand knowing that the team in the southern hemisphere are just starting their day.

Quick lunch and a call to my wife